

## **REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action wherein the Examiner considered the application to contain claims directed to two inventions. These are: Group I, claims 1-9 directed to a vacuum cleaner and cleaner filter; and Group II, claims 10-14 directed to a filter support.

The Examiner acknowledged that inventions in Group I and Group II are related as combination and subcombination. However, the Examiner concluded that the inventions are distinct, because the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination. He reached this conclusion because the combination does not require the shroud to be connected to a smaller cone opening and thus the subcombination has separate utility such as a holder for a filter not intended for a vacuum cleaner.

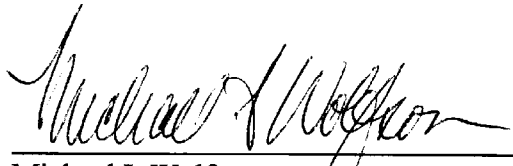
Applicant respectfully elects Group I, claims 1-9 directed to the vacuum cleaner and filter, with traverse, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

The apparatus in claims 1-9 uses the filter support segment as defined in claims 10-14 and of Group II. Accordingly, the claims of Group I are intimately related to the shroud and filter support claims of Group II. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that a thorough search of the Group 1 claims will necessarily involve a search of Group II. In view of this, Applicant respectfully requests that all the claims be examined in this single application.

If upon review of the traverse, the Examiner disagrees, it is respectfully requested that Group I, claims 1-9, be examined. In this case, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the application at an early date with view towards issuing a favorable action thereon. If upon review of the application, the Examiner is unable to issue an immediate Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney with a view towards resolving any outstanding issues.

Early and favorable action in connection with this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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